

Press release

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UNOPS and SEforALL sign new partnership to accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy future in Africa


The Africa Energy Transition Partnership will help African countries to promote climate action and universal access to clean energy, in line with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- This new partnership will support African countries to transition towards an energy system that ensures sustainability, energy security, and economic growth.
- The first phase will be implemented in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria, with other African countries to be identified as the programme rolls out.
- UNOPS and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) will build on positive experiences gained from the ongoing Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership.
- Agreement was announced at COP28 in Dubai by UNOPS Executive Director and SEforALL CEO.

A new partnership between UNOPS and SEforALL will support governments, donors and other stakeholders to accelerate the energy transition in Africa and find a sustainable way to meet its growing energy needs, which is one of the core development challenges for the continent.

The Africa Energy Transition Partnership (AETP)- announced on the sidelines of COP-28 - will deliver joint action and improved coordination, by addressing issues that impede access to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable infrastructures.

Over [40% of the population in Africa](#) live without access to electricity, and 70% without access to clean cooking fuels. Africa enjoys immense energy potential, particularly in

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renewable energy, yet only a fraction of this is currently being used. Against this context, the partnership represents a unique opportunity to support the region's energy development and climate goals.

Mobilizing technical and financial resources in energy projects remains a key challenge. The partnership will bring funders together with African governments, and other stakeholders to develop a shared vision to ensure the right energy mix for the continent.

UNOPS will be responsible for managing the funds and providing operational and administrative support, while SEforALL will provide access to finance and technical assistance.

The Africa Energy Transition Partnership will have a pan-continental view, however, as an initial step its first phase will be implemented in Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya until 2028, while other African countries are identified to be incorporated as the programme rolls out. AETP builds on lessons learned from the ongoing Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership, which since 2020 supports Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable energy system.

The agreement was announced at a COP28 side event in Dubai.

Jorge Moreira da Silva, the UNOPS Executive Director said:

"Access to reliable and clean energy is key to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Africa's rapid economic expansion calls for sustainable solutions to meet growing energy needs and this is one of the core development challenges for the continent. UNOPS is committed to supporting Africa in its efforts to provide access to energy for all, and to ensure that the clean energy transition delivers for Africa's economic and social development."

Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, remarked:

"The energy transition in Africa presents an unparalleled opportunity to address climate change and promote sustainable development. It is extremely vital that we think of how people access and consume energy, especially in regions where energy infrastructure does not adequately meet demand. This is why at Sustainable Energy for All we work with African governments to develop whole-of-economy Energy Transition and Investment Plans that help build energy systems to support economic and social development and achieve net-zero emissions. We are excited to be deepening our relationship with UNOPS through this new partnership to deliver support to implement these energy transition and investment plans."

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About UNOPS

UNOPS is a UN organization that helps partners run peace and security, humanitarian and development projects in some of the world's most challenging environments. Read more: www.unops.org

About SEforALL

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) is an international organization that works in partnership with the United Nations and leaders in government, the private sector, financial institutions, civil society and philanthropies to drive faster action towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.